Corrupt Government Officials

88. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court has recently directed the Union Government to root out corruption in the country;

(b) if so, whether a large number of Government officials have amassed wealth disproportionate to their known sources of income;

(c) if so, the details of such officials that came to the notice of Government during the past three years and further action taken by Government thereon; and

(d) the details of punitive steps Government propose to take to ensure that Government employees who have amassed wealth disproportionate to their sources of income do not escape from the hands of Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING AND DEPARTMENT OF PENSION AND PENSIONERS' WELFARE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) No, Sir. However, the Government is fully alive to the need to tackle the menace of corruption.

(b) and (c) The Central Bureau of Investigation has registered 177 cases against Government officials on the charge of amassing wealth disproportionate to their known sources of income during the last three years *i.e.* 1997, 1998 and 1999. Out of these 177 cases, charge sheets in 45 cases have been filed in the competent courts, in 22 cases Regular Departmental Action has been recommended and 12 cases have been closed, 1 case has been otherwise disposed off and the remaining 97 cases are pending investigation. In all these cases, after completion of investigations, the law will take its own course.

(d) A three pronged strategy of surveillance, prevention and punitive/deterrent action is followed by the Govt. Apart from

departmental action, the criminal action is initiated under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 in such cases.

Prevention of Corruption

†89. SHRI RAGHAVJI: Will the PRIME MINISTER pleased to state:

(a) whether any schemes have been formulated by Government to free the country from corruption, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the steps that have been taken, so far, after the constitution of new Government for prevention of corruption and to what extent these steps have been successful?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING AND DEPARTMENT OF PENSION AND PENSIONERS' WELFARE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) The Government is committeed to provide clean administration and to eradicate corruption at all levels. The drive against corruption in public services is a continuing process. The policies formulated in this regard are modified from time to time in order to make them more effective and responsive to the changing environment. In the Ministries/ Departments of the Central Government, the Secretary and the Head of the Department concerned is responsible for ensuring probity and integrity in the respective organisation.

The Central Vigilance Commission Bill has been introduced in the Lok Sabha on 20.12.1999. The Bill stands referred to the Joint Committee of both the Houses of Parliament on 21.12.1999 for consideration and its recommendations.

Lok Pal Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 3.8.1998 to set up the institution of Lok Pal to look into the allegations of corruption against high public functionaries. The Bill, however, lapsed on the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.